



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Cape Cod National Seashore 99 Marconi Site Road
Wellfleet, MA 02667

508 349-3785 phone
508 349-9052 fax

Cape Cod National Seashore News Release

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Contact(s): Chip Bishop

Phone number: 508 398-1997

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PUBLIC INVITED TO WATCH AND LISTEN AS RADIO AMATEURS CELEBRATE MARCONI CENTENNIAL WITH INTERNATIONAL WIRELESS FEST JANUARY 11-19 ON CAPE COD

Amateur radio enthusiasts from Southeastern Massachusetts will mark the 100th anniversary of Guglielmo Marconi's first transatlantic wireless transmission from the U.S. with a weeklong radio fest of international communications next month.

The Marconi Radio Club, W1AA, and the Marconi Cape Cod Radio Club, KM1CC, working in partnership with the National Park Service at Cape Cod National Seashore, will operate a wireless station from January 11-19 at the former Coast Guard station at Coast Guard Beach in Eastham, Massachusetts*. From 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day, the public will be able to tour the station, listen to voice and Morse Code discussions with other radio operators around the world, and learn about wireless technology and the significance of Marconi's achievement.

January 18, 2003 will mark the centennial of Marconi's groundbreaking transmission to England from what is now the Marconi Site at Cape Cod National Seashore in South Wellfleet.

“Marconi’s experiments evolved into radio as we know it today,” explained Bob Doherty, president of the Marconi Radio Club. “The events of a hundred years ago paved the way for today’s other wireless tools including cell phones and pagers.”

From atop high, sandy cliffs overlooking the Atlantic, Marconi transmitted a simple, 54-word greeting from President Theodore Roosevelt to Great Britain’s King Edward VII. Within hours, the king acknowledged receiving the message, and the spark of global communications was lit.

The capstone event of the radio celebration will be a re-transmission of the 1903 message between the United States and Great Britain, on January 18 at 7:00 p.m., 8:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.

“Marconi was a 28-year-old Italian-born inventor who set high goals for himself and, through perseverance here and abroad, achieved them,” said Doherty. “Every person has been affected by his work in a positive way.”

The amateur radio fest is part of a series of centennial events planned by the Seashore, culminating in Marconi Day on January 18 at Salt Pond Visitor Center in Eastham and the park’s headquarters building, 99 Marconi Site Rd., in South Wellfleet.

For a complete events calendar, go to www.nps.gov/caco and click on “In Depth,” then “News.”

For more on the activities of the Marconi Radio Club, go to the club’s site at <http://personal.tmlp.com/k1vv/w1aa>.

*Operating frequencies (+- 10 KHz) for W1AA during the celebration will be:

CW (Code) - 1839, 3539, 7039, 10109, 14039, 18099, 21039, 24899, 28039

SSB (Voice) - 1860, 3860, 7260, 14260, 18160, 21360, 24960, 282360, 50160

PSK 31(Digital) - 10142, 14070, 18100, 21070, 28120

Editors: For further information, please contact Chip Bishop of Chip Bishop Communications at 508 398-1997 or at chip@chipbishop.com.